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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Merchant Shipping; Air Raid Preparations
at Varna; Tobacco Purchases

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NO. OF ENCLS.
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE

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1. The Bulgarian merchant ships GORNIANIN and RILA arrived at Istanbul [redacted] to unload lumber.
2. Bulgarian officials are reportedly becoming very strict with merchant ship captains because of black market operations and damage to their ships. The former captain of the RILA was tried approximately one month ago and sentenced to life imprisonment for sabotaging his ship. Another captain has become over-cautious, often seeking shelter from storms and bad weather in Greek waters (without the permission or knowledge of the Greeks) in order to avoid similar charges.

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3. One of the merchant ship crew members [redacted] intensive anti-air raid preparations are being made in Stalin (Varna). Womens groups have been formed for training in handling incendiary bomb fires, first aid, et cetera.
4. The Bulgarians are currently engaged in purchasing Turkish "American Grade" tobacco through an agent in Istanbul for re-sale to Germany.

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